



DISCOVER DIPLOMACY

Fall 2017

#DiscoverDiplomacy

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From left to right: Students engaged in a diplomacy simulation and visitors at the "Faces of Diplomacy" exhibit testing

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The Diplomacy Center team has been actively engaging our future visitors over the last few months. Highlights of their efforts can be seen in the pages of this newsletter. Meanwhile, the staff continues refining our future exhibits, by connecting with prospective visitors to get their feedback such as on our "Faces of Diplomacy" exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

In late summer, the Diplomacy Center staff partnered with Smithsonian Exhibits and the Lemelson Center's Spark!Lab at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. We invited museum visitors to interact with a prototype of one of our future exhibits, "Faces of Diplomacy." We look forward to using their visitor perspective in planning this and future exhibits.

This December, fans of C-SPAN's *American Artifacts* program will see 35 objects from our collection showcased. In three hours of filming, our team discussed objects representing 200 years of U.S. diplomatic history.

The Center also hosted a unique panel discussion on Vietnam, featuring former U.S. officials and a Foreign Service spouse for an "up-close and personal" look at grassroots diplomacy.

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- Director's Note
- Curator's Corner
- Stories of Diplomacy
- Visitor Testing
- Education News

Through the support of the Bechtel and Alcoa Foundations, eight sets of the Center's *Diplomacy Simulation Program* -- including several videos with subject matter experts -- are now available on our website. The team is alerting teachers and students via email and social media to these resources. Our diplomatic simulations will bring a global dimension to middle school, high school and college classrooms.

In the new year, we plan to host a number of programs that highlight the work of diplomacy. We look forward to you joining us for these exciting panels and lectures.

As always, we thank you for supporting our project.

-Olive B. Sampson,
United States Diplomacy Center Acting Director



Audience at our program, *A Window into American Soft Power in Rural Vietnam, 1962-1964*

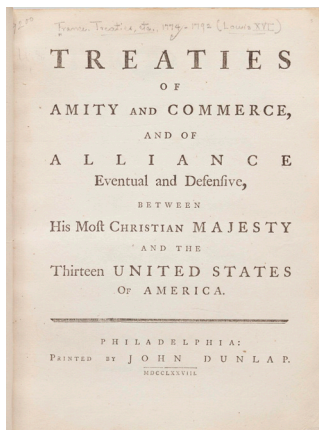
CURATOR'S CORNER

In September C-SPAN filmed highlights from the Center's collections for its program *American Artifacts*. We were delighted at the opportunity to showcase the collection in advance of the museum's opening and reach the network's national audience.



Associate Curator Katie Speckart and Public Historian Alison Mann researched the diplomatic stories of more than 35 featured artifacts from the collections. Thematically, they grouped the selected artifacts into six areas: founding of the nation; institutional history; Cold War; embassies in crisis; gifts of state; and tools of the trade. On camera, Katie and Alison had a "conversation" about each artifact, revealing little known stories from diplomatic history.

Some of the artifacts highlighted included a U.S. Minister flag, 1991: The United States was represented in Germany by an Ambassador at the Embassy in Bonn and by a Minister to Berlin to manage the U.S. presence in that divided city. This unique flag was presented to Harry Gilmore upon completion of his Berlin assignment. After reunification, the Embassy returned to Berlin and the U.S. Minister position was abolished.



struggle for independence.

A set of 2,000 Chinese-English flash cards in a custom box, 1934: This elegant flash card set belonged to the late Ambassador James Kedzie Penfield. He was assigned as a Language Officer to China. All U.S. Foreign Service Chinese Language Officers were trained in Peking (Beijing) from 1902 until 1949 when U.S. diplomatic and consular representation on the China mainland ceased.



A tea service, 2001: Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov marked the end of Secretary Albright's tenure with this gift he entitled "Madeleine and Her Dream Team." It features the faces of several of her European and Canadian counterparts.



The episode is slated to air in December.

STORIES OF DIPLOMACY

The United States Diplomacy Center was pleased to host an event featuring up-close and personal stories of diplomacy in October: *A Window into American Soft Power in Rural Vietnam, 1962-1964*. We were joined by retired Foreign Service Officer Robert Warne, his spouse Susanna (Suzy), and a retired U.S. Government official, Rufus Phillips. Phillips was featured in the recent PBS documentary, *The Vietnam War*. He worked on Vietnam policy issues and conceived of the Rural Affairs Program to support counterinsurgency and rural development of “strategic hamlets” in the Mekong Delta. At age 23, Robert Warne had just joined the State Department. He was accompanied in Vietnam by Suzy and their baby daughter.



The Warne family at their residence in Vietnam; photo courtesy of Robert Warne

The couple faced many challenges on the two-year assignment. Illustrating his talk with maps and



From left to right: Robert Warne, Suzy Warne and Rufus Phillips

personal photos of himself and Suzy working with local villagers, Warne spoke of his consultations with the local chiefs on rural economic practices and development, assisting locals to improve refugee conditions, access to water, and pig farming. Suzy taught at the local school and described in vivid detail what daily life was like for a young Foreign Service spouse with a baby. Despite the dangers posed by the Viet Cong, she recalls her years in Vietnam as some of the best in her life. After the panel, our curatorial team showcased several Vietnam-related objects from the Center’s collection including medals, a political relationship chart, and concrete salvaged outside the U.S. Embassy compound in Saigon damaged during the Tet Offensive.



Collections Manager Eric Duyck (left) engages attendees viewing Vietnam era objects from our collections and the Warne family



VISITOR TESTING

Over the course of an afternoon at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, we spoke with over 300 museum visitors from across the United States and the world about the “Faces of Diplomacy” exhibit. We heard their reactions to the stories of our nation’s diplomats and gathered their thoughts on the purpose of diplomacy. In testing this exhibit, we sought feedback both on whether our prototype was effective in illustrating the role of America’s diplomats in securing our nation’s security and prosperity, and

on what we could do better as we develop the exhibit further. Check out our website for more information about this immersive experience!



Visitors take a look at the “Faces of Diplomacy” exhibit

EDUCATION NEWS

Students across the United States can now be diplomats for a day! The Center's education team is delighted to announce the availability of the *Diplomacy Simulation Program* online at Diplomacy.State.gov/Simulations.

The program is designed to teach students about the breadth of issues that American diplomats pursue on behalf of the United States and to help them develop the 21st century skill sets they will need to be competitive in today's global environment. The simulations are the focal point of the Center's educational outreach. Now, educators in the United States, and indeed world-wide, have easy access



to these free resources. They can find a teacher's guide with links to instructional videos and eight different historical or hypothetical (but very realistic) scenarios with background information. Several of the simulations include short video links with subject matter experts.

The online program debuted at the Global Ties Summit in Austin, Texas, this September when 180 high school students from across the area participated in a simulation.

With 6,000 participants and counting, the Center's education team will continue to expand the program's reach to broader geographic regions and diverse educational institutions across the United States. Education Specialist Lauren Fischer will present the online resources and train educators at conferences hosted by the Virginia Council for Social Studies and the National Council for the Social Studies.

We are proud that the *Diplomacy Simulation Program* has become an important teaching tool about global issues and how the practice of diplomacy is used to address multiple stakeholders' interests.


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SUPPORT THE U.S. DIPLOMACY CENTER

Located at the Department of State's historic headquarters, the Harry S Truman Building, the Center will invite visitors to explore the history, practice, and challenges of American diplomacy through interactive exhibits, artifacts, hands-on educational programs, diplomatic simulations, and discussions with foreign affairs experts.



The United States Diplomacy Center is a non-partisan and apolitical museum and education center dedicated to telling the story of American diplomacy. Our private partner, the Diplomacy Center Foundation, works

to support the creation of the museum and education center. Donations can be made through its website at DiplomacyCenterFoundation.org or directly to the United States Diplomacy Center. For questions or additional information, please contact us at DiplomacyCenter@state.gov.